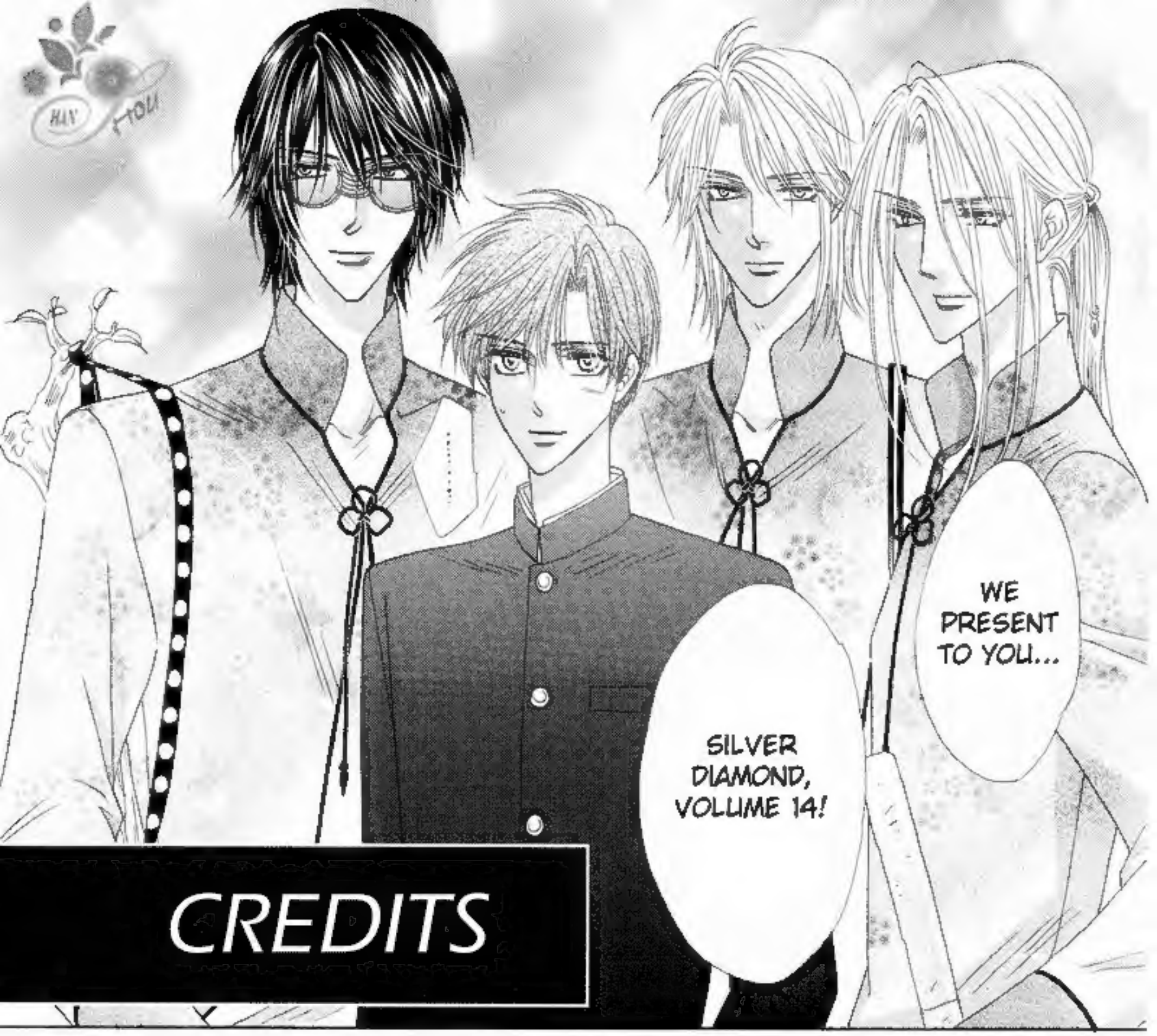


CREDITS

RAW:	TRANSLATOR:	SPOT TRANSLATOR:	EDITOR:	PROOF-READER:
Fox	sandreen	silvery_storm	sandreen	silvery_storm

THIS IS A FREE SCANLATION BROUGHT TO YOU
BY THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PEOPLE.

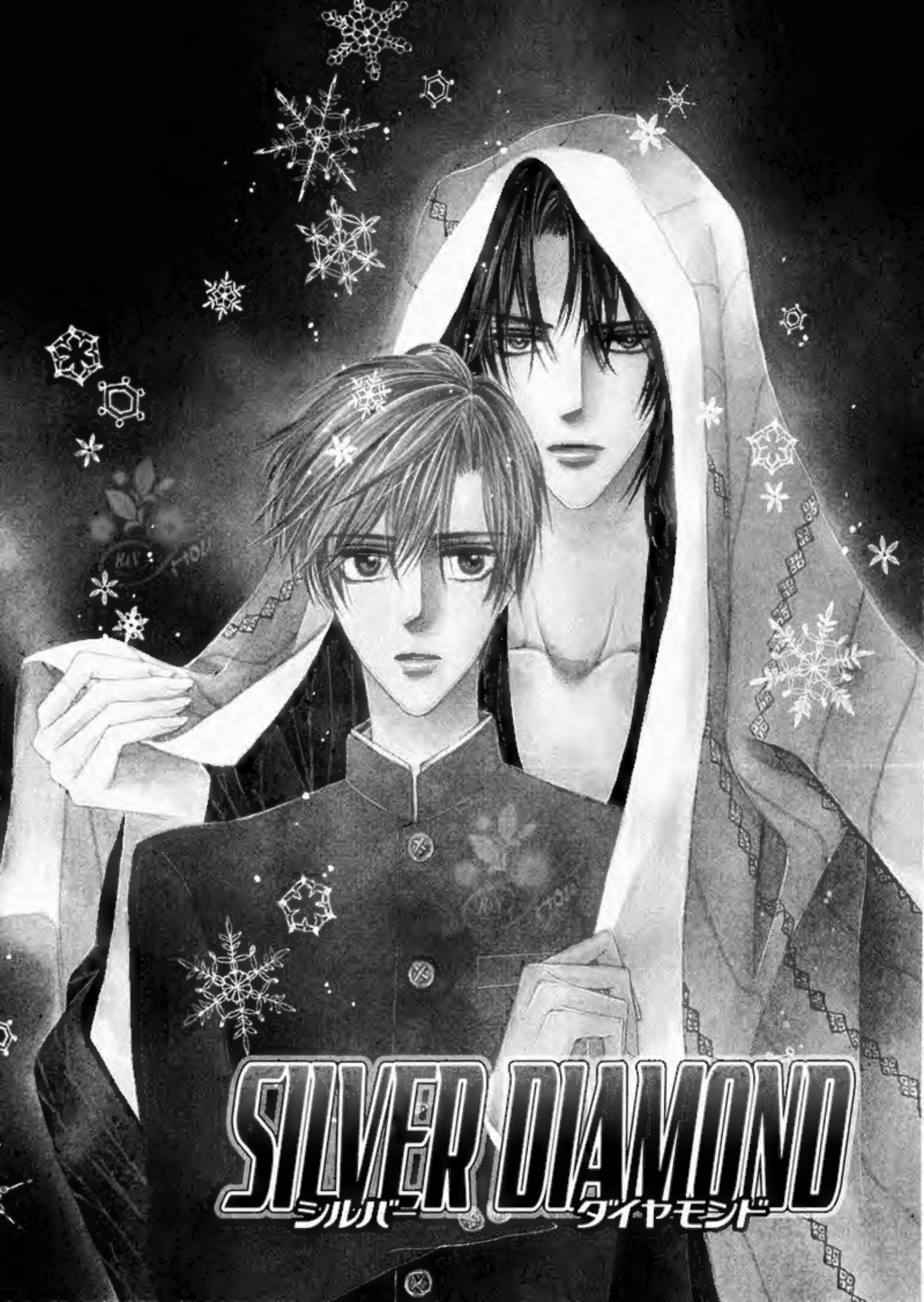
PLEASE SUPPORT THE AUTHOR BY BUYING THE ORIGINAL VOLUME.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE AUTHOR:

Shiho Sugiura

SILVER DIAMOND 14

杉浦志保 SHIHO SUGIURA


SILVER DIAMOND
シルバーダイヤモンド

SSH...

FINALLY.....

THAT'S HIS FACE....

THE ONE THOSE SERPENTS MET.....

...I FOUND HIM...

SHH..

FINALLY.....

I CAN SLEEP...

SSHH..

"ETERNITY"

CHIGUSA!

IS IT OKAY NOT TO GROW A BONE NET OVER THE SAND?

THEN, LET'S ALL TAKE A LITTLE BREAK!

YEAH... THERE ARE NO AYAME HERE, SO IT'S OKAY.

I SEE!

CRACK

POP

Wa~ Treats~

OKAY.

I'LL GET SOME FRUITS FOR US...

Please wait a moment.

HUH?

"WATER-COLOURED STONE CHAIRS"?

!!!

THEN, THIS PLACE IS...

NN.

I FOUND THEM, THE WATER-COLOURED STONE CHAIRS!

Umuuu.

A LITTLE BLUE-ISH IN COLOUR.... SHALL I SHOW YOU?

THE COLOR OF WATER? TRANSPARENT STONES?

WHAT DO THE "WATER-COLOURED STONE CHAIRS" LOOK LIKE?

Chairs?

THEN, THAT... IS NEAR...

Flip!

WHAT?

Awip

AH! I CAN SEE THEM! HOW PRETTY!

Pat

OH?

THEN CLOSE YOUR EYES.

NN! I WANNA SEE!

DID YOU "SEE" THAT THROUGH YOUR X-RAY VISION ?

YES.

CHIGUSA! RAKAN-KUN, YOU BE CAREFUL AS WELL!

IT'S HERE!

SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE IS THE "BLACK MEADOW"...

IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE...

YOU WANT TO SEE AS WELL, RAKAN?

OHHHH, SOUNDS NICE~

OF COURSE YOU CAN,

JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES.

EH? CAN I SEE THEM WITH MY OWN EYES?

LEANS IN

Please wait one moment.

~ Five Coloured Hill. The Scenery of the Water-coloured Chairs ~

SO IF I DON'T STICK CLOSE TO THE PART NEAR RAKAN'S MIND, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THE IMAGE.

TOHJI AND RAKAN HAVE DIFFERENT KINDS OF EYES,

YOU SEE,

NO...

...

PROTECTION.

...

NARUSHIGE-SAN, AT LEAST LOWER YOUR SWORD...

It touched Chigusa's nose...

LOOK, KAZUHI EVEN HAS A THIRD EYE.

TOHJI'S EYES ARE BETTER THAN AVERAGE.

OH? AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR EYES IS...?

The sword is so near, so very near!

He draws his sword so quickly, so quickly!

BEING PULLED IN

If I didn't let you see what I was seeing underground wouldn't that have been dangerous?!

YOU GUYS! STOP MAKING SUCH HASTY CONCLUSIONS!

SO KAZUHI IS A PERVERT TOO!

Me too, me too!

He did it with me too.

He did it with me too.

KAZUHI DID THAT A LOT TOO!

...

Once again, a new misunderstanding...

HOW DO I DO THAT ...?

ENTERING SOMEONE'S DREAM WORLD...

SPYING ON OTHERS' DREAMS...

WHAT THE HELL?

MAKING ALL THE BOOKS AND SHELVES TRANSPARENT, LEAVING ONLY THE WORDS AND SORTING THEM BY CATEGORY...

EH?

KAZUHI'S EYE CAN DO THAT TOO? IT CAN SEE ANYTHING?

EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN "ANYTHING"?

K

K

HA?

PTOL

Yep.

Which also means, having a sword pointed at him happens often?

YEP!

CAN DO EVERYTHING YOU GUYS JUST SAID?

WHICH MEANS SENROH

Ohh!

AH, SO IT'S LIKE THAT!

THE POWER OF MY EYES AND KAZUHI'S EYE ARE DIFFERENT.

NOT BAD, SENROH!

YOU CAN DO A LOT OF THINGS!

Amazing!

HOW USEFUL!

Really...

AND?

I'm being praised.

That's great.

Ah, That's right...

WHAT'S THE "BLACK MEADOW"?

OH...

ATTENTIVE PERSON.

EH?

PLEASE DO NOT GO NEAR IT!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE BLACK-COLOURED PLAINS,

UP AHEAD, OR POSSIBLY NEARBY,

YES,

BUT THEY ARE MORE LIKE TREES THAN GRASS THOUGH...

A PLACE WHERE THERE'S GRASS GROWING?

How rare!

EH? "BLACK MEADOW"?

SHH

THERE'S A FLOWER EMERGING FROM THE SAND.

HMM?

EASILY UNDERSTOOD THAT IT'S A DANGER ZONE.

IT'S WRITTEN HERE THAT THE "BLACK MEADOW" IS ALSO KNOWN AS "MAN-EATING STOMACH"!

EH?! ARE THEY EVEN TREES?

..."MAN-EATING"?!

NARUSHIGE, KOH, IF THAT'S THE CASE,

WHAT KIND OF THING IS THAT?

THIS SHOULD PROBABLY BE...

RAKAN, MOVE HERE A LITTLE!

PULL

Eh?!

!!

WHAT?!

EH...?!

EH?

CHIGUSA!

—NO, DON'T WORRY,

IT'S NOT HOSTILE...

IT SEEMS LIKE...

IT WANTS TO ASK SOMETHING . . .

RUSTLE

LOOK LIKE STONE IN SOME PLACES ...?

DON'T ITS ROOTS...

IT'S MOVING.

...A TREE-LIKE ORGANISM?

IT'S A TREE RIGHT?

WHAT?

DO YOU MEAN IT'S TALKING?

THIS IS ALSO...

!

THIS IS... COULD IT BE...

!

.....!

PROBABLY,..

ITS BODY IS MADE UP OF A MIXTURE OF STONES AND TREES.....

WHAT HAKUBI MENTIONED *LAST NIGHT*...

ONE OF THE CREATURES FROM THE "OLD WORLD"...?

THAT UNDER-GROUND ?!

YOU MEAN

. THE "OLD WORLD"?

A WORLD BEFORE THIS WORLD TOOK SHAPE?

YES.

KURE.-SAMA SAID THAT IN THE "OLD WORLD"

EXISTS "THE SEED OF IMMORTALITY"

.IN THAT UNDERGROUND.

"THE SEED OF IMMORTALITY"?!

"IMMORTAL TY"
?!

ONCE AGA.N CREATE A NEW WORLD

YES HE VOWED TO OBTAIN IT.

AND W.TH A SELECTED FEW PEOPLE,

WAS THERE ANY BAS S TO WHAT HE SA.D?

HOW WILL HE CREATE A NEW WORLD?

LEAVES THE TALKING TO THE REST

How should I put it? A sinister object and a sinister objective.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? DOES IT REALLY REFER TO GA NING ETERNAL ..FE?

SO HE'S PURPOSELY .ETT.NG THE CURRENT WORLD WITHER?

A SEED

SO THERE IS A PLANT .IKE THAT?

SPEAKING IN UNISON.

.T'S SA.D THAT THERE WAS A WORLD WHERE HUMANS USED SUPERPOWERS

.N THAT UNDER-GROUND,

UMM, FIRST OF AL..

KINRE,-SAMA MANAGED TO GET,

THE TECHNIQUES FROM THE OLD WORLD.

AND THEN CREATED STONE PUPPETS AND OTHER CREATURES,

AND TURNED HIS OWN BLOOD INTO MYSTERIOUS "POWERS" WITH IT

LIKE THE "STONE PUPPETS"?

YES.

"SUPER-POWERS"?

YES, THERE'S A TECHNIQUE

TO CREATE LIFE THAT NEVER WITHERS OR DEGRADES

"LIFE THAT NEVER WITHERS"?

MIXING STONE?

WERE MIXING THE "STONE'S POWER" WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES AND USING THEM

IT'S SAID THAT THE TECHNIQUES OF THE OLD WORLD

YES

THERE WERE MYSTERIOUS POWERS DIFFERENT FROM THIS WORLD'S?

SO IN THAT UNDERGROUND

AH

COULD IT BE

SOMETHING LIKE.. A CYBORG.. ?

MIX STONES AND PLANTS?

WHAT WILL THAT BECOME?

UMM, THE STONE PUPPPETS ARE ALSO LIKE THAT.

BUT YOU CAN ALSO MIX STONES TO PLANTS.

AND MAKE THE LIFESPAN AND RESILIENCE INCREASE

YES..

EXACTLY!

EH?

SOME-THING LIKE

THOSE STONE STAIRCASES UNDERGROUND?

..THOSE STAIRCASES UNDERGROUND?

THOSE WEREN'T BUILT BY ANYONE.

OR CUT INTO THAT SHAPE BY HUMAN WORKERS

IT WAS LIKE THE ROCK NATURALLY CLIMBED UP ON ITS OWN AS IF IT WAS A PLANT, THOUGH THAT SOUNDS UNBELIEVABLE

Kind of.

THOSE ARE STONES, RIGHT?

YES. BUT,

!

THEN WHAT ABOUT TSUBAKI IS IT POSS'BLE

STONES AND PLANTS...

HUH?

.F THE ABIL.TY TO GROW,

JUST LIKE A PLANT'S BRANCHES WERE MIXED, THEN .T MAKES SENSE

Sounds like a fantasy

YOU MEAN THEY BECAME "GROWING STONES"?

YEP

LEAVES →

YOU CALLED

STONES, ETC.

clap

HE D.D MENTION "HAV.NG L.VED FOR A VERY LONG T.ME"

THEN DOES THIS MEAN THAT TSUBAK. AND THE REST ARE ALL CREATURES FROM THE OLD WORLD?

AND THEY'RE .MMORTAL B'RDS

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,

TS LEAFY FEATHERS DON'T REACT EVEN WHEN I TOUCH THEM

..HMM.

NOW THAT I LOOK AT IT CAREFULLY, THEIR LEAVES ARE ALSO FUSED W TH SOMETH NG LIKE ROCK

YOU CAN EVEN SEE WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF?

That's amazing!

WE'RE TALK'NG ABOUT "THE SEED THAT WON'T W'THER OR DEGRADE".

IS ABOUT THE PROLOGATION OF THE MIXING TECHN.QUE?

THEN, THAT

SO I DON'T TH NK IT'S PURELY PLANT

The peak, in other words.

YES

"SEED OF ETERNAL L.FE"

IN ORDER TO SEVER OUR TIE TO THE "FATE THAT DOOMS US TO DEATH".

HUMANS HAVE TO EVOLVE INTO SOMETHING BETTER THAN HUMANS...

THEN, CREATE FROM SCRATCH...

AN UNDYING, "ENDLESS WORLD".....

GOD DOES NOT EXIST...

THIS WORLD IS QUICKLY REACHING ITS END..

PLANTS WILL WITHER IN THE END..

HUMANS WHO ARE MERELY HUMANS WILL ONE DAY DIE TOO..

HE'S REALLY GO.NG FOR T

Seriously.

WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY GOAL!

AND ETERNAL L.FE

A NEW WORLD

DIDN'T IT END ANYWAY?

EVEN WITH THOSE TECHNIQUES,

EVEN IF YOU EVOLVE

IN OTHER WORDS, THE WORLD THAT HAS ALREADY ENDED RIGHT?

BUT THE OLD WORLD IS,

YEAH

I THINK KINREI-SAMA CAN DO IT, BUT

A BEAUTIFUL WORLD

MADE FROM ETERNAL STONE...

IT'S DEFINITELY POSSIBLE TO CREATE A NEW WORLD

WITH THOSE TECHNIQUES AND THE AYAME PRINCE'S POWER,

A NEW WORLD...

BELOW THIS WORLD...

IT IS A WORLD THAT CANNOT WITHER...

THOUGH KINREI-SAMA SAID THAT ON THE BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING

FOR ME THAT UNDER-GROUND

LOOKED JUST LIKE THE OTHER WORLD

JUST LIKE

"A WORLD AFTER DEATH"

THERE WASN'T ANY FRAGMENT OF NEW HOPE AT ALL

HAKUBI

AND WHEN COMPARED TO THE SCENERY UP HERE

IT FEELS EVEN MORE

SPREAD SEEDS IN THE UNDER-GROUND TOO, AND FILL IT WITH GREENERY.

I WILL

Hold

...WHO...

SO, DON'T WORRY!

...AH...

RAKAN...

WHO EVER SAID I WAS UNEASY!

NO, I WAS JUST A FEELING

Well, I just felt like doing it..

Why the hell are you holding my hand!!

ALTHOUGH IT COULD MEAN RISING ABOVE THE STATUS OF A HUMAN

Eh?

EVEN IF IT MEANS LIVING "FOREVER"?

I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD THING

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

NN NOT AT ALL

REALLY...

PUTS OUR MIND AT EASE..

BUT STILL,

"ETERNAL LIFE", HUH

WON'T IT BE TROUBLE-SOME!

Living for such a long time...

THEY WOULD PROBABLY BREAK DOWN, IN MANY WAYS

AKICHI, IN OTHER WORDS, IF NORMAL PEOPLE WOULD LIVE THAT LONG,

IN MANY WAYS?

THAT'S TRUE

THAT'S TRUE

BUT IF I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL LIVE FOR A LONG TIME,

TSUBAKI AND THE REST

I SEE, THAT'S TRUE

I definitely don't want that...

Yeah..

THAT'S TERRIBLE I'D FEEL SO LONELY

WHILE ALL OF MY FRIENDS DIE AHEAD BEFORE ME, I'D REALLY HATE THAT

HAVE A LOT OF COMPANIONS SO THEY'RE FINE

And they don't really care

About a lot of things

IT'S INDEED TRUE..

OOH, SO IT'S LIKE THAT

I THINK THAT HUMANS...

SHOULD NOT POSSESS A LIFE ABOVE HUMANS...

EH?

YOU'RE HERE.

...YORUAKI?

STEP

EH?

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

NO, I SAW THAT THE LIGHT WAS STILL ON SO I CAME OVER TO SEE...

RITSUKA-SAMA.

ARE YOU HERE FOR MEDICINE?

IS IT OKAY FOR YOU NOT TO BE BY THE SIDES OF THE PRINCE AND KINREI?

AREN'T THEY BOTH INJURED?

STROKE

AH, SO...

THEY HAD A FALLING OUT.

...THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

...SANOME-SAMA IS WITH THE PRINCE,

AND KINREI-SAMA,

HAS ACQUIRED THE BLOOD OF THE PRINCE SO HE'S FINE...

OPEN

...WHAT'S THAT? A RICE MOUSE?

IS IT DEAD?

IT'S ON THE VERGE OF DEATH.

?

HOW KIND...

NO.

YOU'D EVEN TREAT SOMETHING THAT SMAL..?

IT'S FOR AN EXPERI-MENT!

STRUGGLE

STRUGGLE

WOW, AND STRENGTH!

WHAT HAPPENED? THIS FELLA..

IS SUDDENLY SO FULL OF VIGOUR.

WHAT?!

GOOD!

SQUEAL

WAH?

CATCH

I CONDUCTED A LOT OF EXPERI-MENTS.

...I WAS THINKING OF THE STONE PUPPETS KINREI-SAMA CREATES,

AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I LET A CREATURE SWALLOW THE NAMED ROCKS AND THE PRINCE'S BLOOD.

INCREDIBLE, RIGHT?

IF I WERE TO INFUSE HERBAL MEDICINE WITH IT, ITS CURATIVE ABILITY WOULD INCREASE TOO.

BUT, IT'S AMAZING!

...YOU ...WHY ARE YOU DOING SUCH FRIGHT-ENING TESTS?

EVEN IF YOU CUT ITS STOMACH, IT'LL CLOSE UP AGAIN!

...OH, THAT'S AMAZING!

ITS MOBILITY INCREASED TOO.

UWAHH!

WAIT, WAIT WAIT!!

SNATCH

EH?!

I DID IT!

GRAB

DRINK IT AND GAIN POWERS ABOVE THAT OF A HUMAN'S.

YES.

WHAT AM I DOING? I WANT TO...

.....

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ALL OF A SUDDEN...

ISN'T *THIS* THE STUFF THE RAT JUST DRANK?

EH?

ONLY BEING ABLE TO STAND IN THE POSITION OF RECEIVING CHARITY?

...BUT, WON'T THAT MEAN..

THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN WE WILL GAIN STRENGTH AND LIFE SUPERIOR TO MANKIND!

NO, EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO THIS,

AS LONG AS WE STAY BY KINREI'S SIDE,

...BUT, IF THIS GOES ON, I CANNOT DO IT!

SOMEONE OF EQUAL STANDING AS KINREI-SAMA!

I WANT TO BECOME...

I...

WANT TO BE ON THE SAME LEVEL!

IF I DO SO, I CAN BE LIKE HIM, AND STAND BESIDE THE PRINCE.

I CAN BE OF "THE SAME STANDING"...!

AND BE RECOGNIZED FOR MY OWN POWER!

I WANT TO OPEN UP A PATH BY MYSELF.

JUST LIKE KINREI-SAMA,

ISN'T RECEIVING CHARITY...

THE SAME AS BEING USELESS!

EVEN SO..

I DID A LOT OF EXPERIMENTS, SO IT'LL BE FINE.

SUCCESS ISN'T GUARANTEED, RIGHT?

WHY AREN'T YOU HESITATING AT ALL!

PEOPLE AND ANIMALS ARE DIFFERENT, AREN'T THEY!

.....

YORUAKI...

PLEASE GIVE IT BACK TO ME, RITSUKA-SAMA!

AND I FOUND JUST THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS...

...THAT'S WHY,

I HAVE TO BECOME SUPERHUMAN BY MY OWN HANDS...!

IN ANY CASE, ISN'T IT THE SAME?

"WHY"...

IF SO, THEN IT'S THE SAME

AS TAKING A GAMBLE RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

THIS IS A WORLD WHERE THE TWO CHOICES ARE "TO EXIST" OR "TO NOT EXIST" RIGHT?

IF I FAIL, THEN IT MEANS MY LIFE IS ONLY UP TO THIS POINT.

ISN'T THAT CHOOSING BETWEEN LIVING AND DYING?

THE SAME?

...LIVING IN THIS WORLD,

AND ACCOMPANYING THE PRINCE AND KINREI-SAMA,

.....

OF LIFE AND DEATH...

WE ARE ALL CHILDREN WITH A WEAK SENSE...

..BEING BORN AND RAISED IN A WORLD THAT IS ENDING...

LET ME TRY THIS.

EH?!

... YORUAKI,

HE CAN BE SUCH A STUPID CHILD...

EVEN THOUGH HE'S SO SMART,

YOU KNOW, NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK ABOUT IT,

I'M PERFECT FOR AN EXPERIMENT RIGHT?

...WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT..

IT'S BETTER TO TEST IT ON A HUMAN FIRST.

I'VE BEEN CARRYING A SERIOUS ILLNESS FROM THE START, AND I'M GETTING OLDER.

SO EVEN IF IT FAILS, I'M JUST BRING-ING MY DEATH FORWARD A LITTLE.

WELL... THAT'S..

..FOR YORUAKI,

UGH...

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FORGIVE ME

FOR DRINKING SUCH A GOOD MEDICINE BEFORE YOU, RIGHT!

FINE!

THERE'S LOTS OF TIME.

DRINKING IT WON'T BE TOO LATE. YOU'RE STILL YOUNG,

.....AFTER CONFIRMING MY SUCCESS,

LIFE IS STILL VERY TRIVIAL.

?

...YES.

YORUAKI,

DO YOU LIKE ME?

YES...

WILL YOU BE SAD IF I DIE?

IF I COULD,

I'D AT LEAST HAVE THIS POOR CHILD

GULP

I SEE.

REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS OWN LIFE.

SWOOSH

...YEAH.

CHIGUSA

Will it be all right?

IT'S NOT HOSTILE?

IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING.

WHAT'S IT SAYING?

IT HAS FEELINGS...

—THIS ATMOSPHERE...

SNAP

EVERYONE, DON'T STRETCH YOUR HANDS!

SNAP

BE CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE TREE!

Wait a second...

KOH!

AOOn

UHN!

NARUSHIGE! LEND ME KOH.

HE MIGHT UNDER-STAND ITS WORDS.

OKAY!

IT'S WHAT HAKUBI WAS SAYING ..

A LIVING THING MADE OF STONE? A TREE?

IT'S ALSO MOVING...

EH? IT'S SPEAKING?

EHHHHH~ WHAT'S THAT~?

NARU SHIGE-SAN,

WHAT EXACTLY IS A "MAN-EATING MEADOW"...

A thorny shrub?

IS THERE ANYTH NG WRITTEN IN THE BOOK?

understand the atmosphere though!

DO YOU UNDER-STAND IT?

YEAH.

I CAN FAINTLY HEAR IT...

.....

A LIVING THING WITH TREES AND STONES MIXED IN IT...?

IF YOU GO NEAR THAT FLOWER...

ENVELOPE THE PERSON, AND THEN EAT HIM!

A ROOT, WHICH RESEMBLES A BRANCH, WILL RISE UP,

SO THAT THING'S A CANNIBAL PLANT?

Show me the book.

!

IN THE PAST, IT SEEMS THAT BLACK ROOTS STARTED SPROUTING FROM THE GROUND,

AND ON ITS BLACK STALK AND LEAVES, A PURPLE FLOWER BLOOMED...

...ACCORDING TO THIS BOOK,

THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED THE "BLACK MEADOW"...

SWAP SWAP

They do exist

A CANNIBAL PLANT

ooo

KINREI MENTIONED IT BEFORE.

...SO THEY REALLY DO EXIST....

CHIGUSA, WHAT'S WRONG?

A LIVING THING MADE FROM TREES AND STONES, HUH....

IT REALLY DOES SEEM TO BE SPEAKING!

That thing-

WHAT'S IT SAYING...

RAKAN...

GET A "SNOW" SEED READY!

!

IS IT THE "SNOW" THAT FALLS FROM THE SKY?

never seen it though.

SNOW SEED?

EH? SNOW?

YES... IT'S A WHITE FLOWER SIMILAR TO SNOW...

BUT IT'S USED ON TREES IN THE GARDEN...

WHAT'S "SNOW"?

BUT THAT SEED IS...

YES.

"THE SEED OF THE FLOWER THAT PUTS THE TREE INTO SLEEP FOR A WHILE"....

HMM? ISN'T THAT...

EH?

CHIGUSA!

WHY DO WE NEED TO USE "SNOW"?

brocavit it with me though

STEP

...

JUST LIKE WHAT HAKUBI WAS SAYING.

A PLANT MADE IN THE OLD WORLD.

IT'S A PUPPET... OR RATHER, A LIVING THING MIXED WITH TREES, STONES AND... SOMETHING ELSE .

ITS TREE COMPONENTS ARE THE MOST AFFLUENT, BUT IT ALSO HAS ITS OWN THOUGHTS.

.....IT'S PROBABLY...

IT'S SAYING, "PLEASE...

STOP ME."

"I...

CAN'T DIE!"

HUH?

EH?

SINCE LONG AGO,

IT'S NOT LIKE IT WANTED TO LURE PEOPLE AND LIVING THINGS,

AND DEVOUR THEM.

BUT,

EVEN THOUGH IT DON'T WANT TO EAT THEM,

WHEN LIVING THINGS COME CLOSE,

ITS LEGS... OR RATHER, ITS BRANCHES MOVE ON ITS OWN.

"I DIDN'T WANT TO", IT SAYS.

AND NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS SAYING!

EVEN THOUGH I WANTED IT TO END, I CAN'T DIE!

WANTED PEOPLE TO DIE, BUT I CAN'T STOP!

I'VE NEVER...

...IS IT LIKE ON INSTINCT?

YES.

"YOU"

..EVEN THOUGH IT WAITED FOR ITSELF TO WITHER,

IT HAS ROCKS MIXED IN ITS BODY,

SO IT CAN'T DIE.

"MIX ROCKS WITH IT..

AND ITS LIFE SPAN AND RESILENCE WILL INCREASE. "

.....

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

I SEE...

IT'S...

THIS ATMO-SPHERE

...BEEN QUIETLY SUFFER-ING...

DEFINITELY...

FOR A REALLY LONG TIME.....

EVEN IF IT WANTS TO .....?

A LIVING THING THAT CAN'T DIE

AND I WILL WAKE UP ONCE MORE

THE WIND WILL END UP SCATTERING THE SNOW FLOWERS.

EVEN IF YOU PUT ME TO SLEEP USING "SNOW" HERE,

I WANT TO SLEEP DEEPLY IN AN ABYSS

THE EARTH HAS CRACKED JUST RIGHT..

PLEASE, I WANT TO FALL INTO THE DEPTHS..

WHERE THERE IS NO ONE AROUND...

...WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

I THINK THE GROUND HOLDING THE ROOTS WILL ALL FALL.

IF WE COULD MAKE IT WIDER BY STRIKING IT WITH SOMETHING LIKE A WEDGE,

THERE'S A FISSURE IN THE GROUND UNDERNEATH THIS SAND

"I CAN'T FEEL PAIN," IT SAYS.

I SEE...

...WON'T IT HURT WHEN IT FALLS DOWN?

AND END UP DEVOURING SOMEONE AGAIN ..

BANG

STEP BACK, EVERYONE!

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG

CRACK

SHHH

CRACK

CRACK

CRACK

SLIDE

SLIDE

SLIDE

.....

RAKAN, OVER HERE.

THE GROUND HERE WON'T COLLAPSE.

SNOW

OKAY.

YES.

It's body will hold it up.

SO IT'S OKAY TO PLANT ANYWHERE AROUND HERE?

swish

swish

swish

swish

CREAK CREAK CREAK

POP

CREAK

SNAP

PLEASE!

SNOW-COATED TREE!

SLOW

LIGHT...

SLOW

PLEASE LET THE BLACK PLANT SLEEP!!

RUSTLE

YEAH...

...IT'S BEAUTIFUL THOUGH...

SO WHITE ..

THERE ARE SO MANY SMALL FLOWERS ...

TN Snow is "yuk." in Japanese which probably triggered Narushige's memory of Shigeyuki san.

.....

"SNOW" FLOWERS

...NOT BEING ABLE TO DIE,

EVEN IF IT WANTS TO...

POOR THING...

YEAH ...

FINALLY

SL ELP

AHH

I CAN FINALLY

I'M SO GLAD

I'M SO GLAD

THAT WE MET

THANK

YOU

"KANOME"

CHILD

"JINGIN"

AND

YEAH...

...IT'S TRUE...

A LIFE THAT'S TOO LONG,

IS REALLY NOT A GOOD THING .....

MAY YOU AT LEAST..

BE ABLE TO...

SLEEP PEACEFULLY FOR A LONG TIME.....

"THE BLACK MEADOW"

EH?

AH... I SEE..

NO, I'M NOT USING MY EYES!

PRINCE!

USING THE "POWER" OF YOUR EYES IS STILL....

YOUR BODY HASN'T FULLY RECOVERED YET.

SO PLEASE DON'T YOUR POWER AS YOU PLEASE.

ANYWAY,

I'll scold you!

that was your fault to begin with

Speaking of which,

EH?

A DREAM?

YES!

BUT KINREI,

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE COME TO UNDER-STAND..

IN MY DREAM .

I AM AN AYAME, THAT'S WHY

JWAP

I UNDER-STAND!

CRACK

RUSTLE

...HERE, AND THERE... AND,

OVER THERE TOO...

Since it'll be big.

OKAY.

CR-ACK

OPEN

THUD

NEAR, FAR

"FLOOR"?

APPARENTLY, IT'S THE SEED CALLED "FLOOR"

THUD

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

LEAVES? ..THEY'RE OPENING....

THUD

WHOAAA~ IT'S HUUUUUUGE!

How cute!

IT'S IN THE SHAPE OF A FLOWER.

THE LEAVES BECAME AS HARD AS A FLOOR!

WHAT'S THE *WALL* AROUND US CALLED AGAIN?

AH, WINGS HUH.

There do look like wings

THEY'RE "WING COVERS".

"WRAPPED UP WITH WINGS" IS WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THE BOOK!

WHEN IT RAINS, THE LEAVES OPEN UP,

AND STICK TOGETHER TO FORM A ROOF-LIKE SHAPE.

IT'S AN "UMBRE-LLA".

"UMBRELLA"?

It's not raining right now though.

I'VE SEEN THESE EVERY-WHERE.

SO THIS HOW THEY ARE GROWN.

RAKAN CALLED IT A "TENT".

Heeh-

TENTO?

APPARENTLY, IT'S AN OBJECT LIKE A HOUSE USED FOR CAMPING.

DOES THIS TYPE OF TREE ALSO HAVE A NAME?

*T N They thought the word was Japanese

AH, IT'S TRUE...

LOOKS LIKE A BED.

fwish

fwish

THEN, WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE?

IT'S SHAPED LIKE A CHAIR.

IT'S A "BENCH".

Look, it's so interesting!

ALL RIGHT!

THEN,

I'LL BE PLANTING IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL.

WE'LL LEAVE THE DINNER PREPARATIONS TO YOU GUYS, OKAY?

THEN, WE'LL GO PATROL THE AREA.

.....

OKAY....

...

step.

SHOUJI! NISHINA! MITSUBA!

Yes!

.....

RAKAN...

...IS STILL FEELING DOWN, HUH.

OH, BECAUSE OF THAT, HUH...

IT REALLY WAS A SAD THING.

HE'S STILL WORRYING ABOUT IT.

YEAH.

BECAUSE HE FEELS REALLY SORRY FOR THE TREE IN THE BLACK MEADOW EARLIER...

EH?

REALLY?

YES..

LEAVE THE FOOD PREPARATION TO US.

AH, THEN... THEN STAY BY HIS SIDE..

You guys.

AH, YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

SO PERHAPS THAT'S WHY HE'S EVEN MORE SYMPATHETIC.

Is that how it is...

THAT'S BECAUSE, RAKAN-KUN LOVES PLANTS THE SAME WAY HE LOVES ANIMALS.

THEN WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.

For the food.

OKAY!

...THAT'S TRUE. THANKS!

Ah.

I GOT IT!

UM...

LIKE WHAT?

IS THERE ANYTHING ASIDE FROM FLOWERS?

LIKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL?

RAKAN...

IT'S SAD TO SEE HIM IN LOW SPIRITS.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER?

YEAH.

RUSTLE...

RAKAN...

HMM?

hugs tightly

.....

HMM?

...CHI-GUSA? WHAT IS IT?

AN ENEMY?

.....
NO...

THE TREE FROM THE BLACK MEADOW...

IS REALLY SLEEPING NOW.

THAT TREE HAS BEEN SUFFER-ING...

UP UNTIL NOW, BUT...

IT CAN FINALLY SLEEP PEACEFULLY,

...DON'T FEEL SO SAD.

BECAUSE HE MET YOU,

AND KOH, WHO COULD UNDERSTAND ITS WORDS.

YEP,

Pat

.....

AH, I SEE.

'CAUSE YOU DO THIS OFTEN.

AH, ARE YOU COMFORTING ME WITH THIS...?

BUT IT'S DEFINITELY GLAD

...THANKS.

TO HAVE MET YOU TOO, CHIGUSA.

"POOR THING "

.....

IS THAT SO...

CHIGUSA IS...

REALLY GRADUALLY...

.....
RATHER.

HE BEAT US TO IT.

...AH,

BECOMING MORE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON NOW.....

WHAT HAPPENED ....?

while I was patrolling...

The effect is different!!

Ehhh, but Kaizan always does that.

AND YOU TOO, WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER WASN'T GOOD AS WELL!!

YOU! STOP ALWAYS THINKING OF USING YOUR BODY TO COMFORT HIM!!

!?

SHOCK!

...THEY FOUGHT?

PRINCE AND KINREI-SAMA FOUGHT?

THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

REALLY?

PUTTING THAT ASIDE, WHAT DID YORUAKI SAY

THEY SEEM CLOSER THAN BEFORE.

ABOUT THE PRINCE'S AND KINREI-SAMA'S INJURIES?

.....

YES.

.....

BOTH OF THEM SEEM TO BE RECOVERING STEADILY.

YORUAKI STEPPED BACK,

AND KINREI SAID, "HE HAS THE PRINCE'S BLOOD, SO IT'S FINE".

BECAUSE THE PRINCE HAS THE SANOME.

YOU MEAN,

HE'S NOT RELYING ON ANY OF US?

...ACTUALLY DOESN'T NEED ANY-THING BUT THE PRINCE, HUH,

SINCE THAT BLOOD IS THE SOURCE OF HIS STRENGTH.

KINREI..

...THAT'S BECAUSE FROM THE START, SINCE WE WERE BORN,

OUR POSITIONS WERE DIFFERENT.

EVEN SO,

IT'LL BE NICE...

IF HE DEPENDED ON US MORE...

I DID REGARD HIM AS A COMRADE.

THAT CAN'T BE HELPED...

...EVEN THOUGH

.....

close

HE HAS LONG SINCE BEEN READY...

TO ABANDON ALL HIS HUMANITY....

I GOT IT FROM THE LIBRARY EARLIER.

OH....

OH? WHAT'S THAT BOOK..?

AH, FROM THE LIBRARY OF DARKNESS?

THE BOOKWORM WHO HAPPENED TO WALK BY

"LIBRARY OF DARKNESS"?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THAT IT CONTAINED DETAILS ABOUT SENROH AND SENGIN..

I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT

HUH?

...IT WASN'T A STORY ABOUT THE SENROHS...

...LIKE I SAID, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

UMM, APPARENTLY, HE MADE THE BOOKS AND BOOKSHELVES TRANSPARENT, LEAVING ONLY THE LETTERS AND SEARCHED FOR IT.

OOH.

THAT'S RARE,

CHIGUSA MAKING A MISTAKE LIKE THAT....

...SEEMS LIKE I'VE MISTAKEN IT WITH THE BOOK NEXT TO IT,

AND GOT A BOOK THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

I've read the whole thing.

HEY, RAKAN!

CAN I HAVE IT?

I love books.

SURE.

RUSTLE

"RECORDS OF INTERESTING BUILDINGS TO VISIT".

It was quite interesting though.

WHAT WAS THAT BOOK ABOUT?

SOUNDS INTERESTING...

WE'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING RARE!

Step

THEN COME HERE WHERE IT'S DARKER FOR A WHILE

You too, Chiyuki

EH?

AKIICHI,

YUUGO, MINARI..

ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?

YEP.

WAIT A MOMENT.

What is it!

SOMEWHERE IN THE DARK?

YEP, THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S A "BAMBOO". . IS IT BEAUTIFUL?

IT IS!

EH? WHAT'S THAT? A SHINING BAMBOO?!

It emits light!!

IS IT RARE?

LOOK!

Tada!

SSSHH

YEAH,
SEE?
"SHINING SAND"?
POP

OOH~
IT'S TRUE,
IT'S SHINING!

Amazing!!

OH,
AKIICHI.

DID YOU BRING THAT BACK FROM THE UNDER-GROUND?

That thing!

...

YEAH,
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE.

IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL!

HOW IS IT MADE?

Z2

THERE'S "SHINING SAND" INSIDE.

IT'S "PURE WHITE ROCK", RIGHT?

HUH?

IT WAS WHITE ROCK.

A ROOM? INSIDE THE ROCK?

THERE WAS A ROOM IN THE ROCK WALL.

We got it there.

EH?
IT'S FROM THE UNDERGROUND?

Why not

As expected of a child

WOOOOW, I WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN IT!

OH, REALLY?

YEAH, IN CAVES LIKE THAT.

THERE WAS SHINING SAND EVERYWHERE.

IT WAS REALLY BEAUTIFUL

SINCE THE WHITE ROCKS REFLECT LIGHT, THE SURROUND-INGS GET LIT UP,

WOW~

SO PEOPLE EXCAVATE THE ROCK TO MAKE ROOMS.

Shall I show it to you, Your Highness?

Isn't that Mrs Nobby?

Why's that guy speaking formally all of a sudden?

The forehead.

...THROUGH THE FOREHEAD?

WHICH MEANS,

HE CAN DO IT, HUH...

It's really beautiful.

.....

.....

CURIOSITY WON.

YEAH,

I WANNA SEE.....

Please.

OKAY.

Hi

Hi

Sakaki-kun

Hi

NO, WITH YOU, IT CAN BE DONE THROUGH THE PALM OF MY HAND.

If it was with the forehead

It would have been interesting

AHH, I SEE.

Then it's fine.

YEAH.

RATHER, CAN IT BE DONE?

That kind of thing.

KAZUHI, RECALL THE MEMORY FOR A WHILE.

EH, ME?!

With your forehead?!

I WONDER IF IT CAN BE REPRO-DUCED..

How convenient

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND REMEM-BER.

I'LL RECEIVE THE PICTURE INSIDE YOUR HEAD

WHOOSH...

HOW BRIGHT...

AH, IT'S REALLY SHINING.

The sand is.

HMM?

HMM...

CAN YOU SEE IT?

AH, OH YEAH! ABOUT THAT...

DO YOU KNOW WHO "HOSHIMINO-KOTO" IS?

SSHH...

"HOSHIMI-NOKOTO"? I DON'T...

WHO'S THAT?

.....AH.

"A GREAT PERSON THAT WILL SHOW THE WAY", HUH.

He did seem like someone like that.

THEN, HE IS KINGEN-RELATED AFTER ALL?

SOME

GREAT PERSON?

"GREAT PERSON" .....?

EH? SHOW ME, CHIGUSA!

THE BLOND HAIR AND SKIN COLOR ARE THE SAME.

"KINGEN-RELATED"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

LIKE A PERSON WHO'LL SHOW THE WAY...

THAT'S WHAT MY MIND IS TELLING ME.

AHH, I SEE. THEN...

YES, RIGHT AWAY.

BUMP

....YES.

DON'T PROLONG IT!

A mother-in-law

He's like a mother-in-law

*T N Chigusa said yes twice which sounds mocking in Japanese

YES, YES.

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO HIM!

YE~S.

SAY "YES" ONLY ONCE!

WHOOSH...

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

THIS GUY?

AH...

IT'S TRUE, WHITE ROCKS... AND SHINING SAND...

How beautiful

NYAAAAAA!!

push away

Ah

how cute

TN Nyaa is a sound a cat makes in Japanese. Rakan shrieked like a cat

The Prince shrieked?

He shrieked?

A GHOST?!

GHOST...

...EH? ISN'T HE AN OLD MAN?!

AH, IT'S FINE. HE'S PROBABLY...

HE LIVES UNDER-GROUND? WILL HE BE FINE?!

A GHOST OF A GREAT PERSON?

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW EITHER.

THE BELL TREE TOO, WE SHOULD PLANT MORE OF THOSE

AS EXPECTED, THE EXISTENCE OF GHOSTS IS NORMAL HERE

Prince?

Prince!

WAAAH, I SAW THE GHOST CLEARLY, I SAW IT, IT DID LOOK A BIT TRANSPARENT

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

WAH

. . . THIS IS BAD, WHAT SHOULD I DO? IF THIS BY CHANCE MAKES MY SIXTH SENSE GRADUALLY BECOME STRONGER, I'LL LIKELY SEE MORE GHOSTS (I HEARD (ELEBRITIES SAYING STORIES ABOUT THAT...) ON TV

I'VE NEVER EVEN ONCE SEEN A GHOST IN THE OTHER WORLD

A GOOD GHOST, HUH

OH, I SEE..

AND THE DIRECTION WHERE YOU GUYS WERE.

OH...

HE TOLD US ALL SORTS OF THINGS,

SUCH AS THE ROUTE TO GO ABOVE GROUND.

HEY, CHIGUSA!

Could he possibly be denying it ?

DIDN'T WE SEE LOADS OF THEM IN THE BELL RINGING FOREST?

So stiu haven't seen a ghost!

A good ghost doesn't count for me

So won't be likely to see more ghosts

WHOAA, SOMEHOW

SINCE IT'S "INFORMATION ABOUT AN ALLY"

HEY, YOU NEED TO SEE IT RIGHT?

THAT GUY HAS LEARNED HOW TO GET "REVENGE" !!

DAMN...!

GOOD ARGUMENT.

Snow m.

I WANNA SEE TOO!

WAS THE GHOST AN ALLY?

AH, SURE.

A person that can see it through the palm of his hand.

A through-the-forehead person

OHH, IT'S SHINING...

IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL!

LOOK!

THE BAMBOO WITH PRINCESS KAGUYA INSIDE....

IT'S JUST LIKE...

THAT'S GREAT!

HE CHEERED UP!

heart beating fast

It's done, it's done

Squeak

.....

[.] AND THEN SHE WENT BACK TO THE MOON.

MOON?

Isn't the princess too small? Eh?

"IN THE BEGINNING, SHE WAS INSIDE THE BAMBOO,

AND BECAUSE OF THAT, THE BAMBOO WAS SHINING JUST LIKE THIS...

AH, "PRINCESS KAGUYA"?

IT'S A FAIRYTALE FROM THE WORLD I CAME FROM.

Who?

A PRINCESS FROM A STORY.

T.N. Princess Kaguya is a real Japanese folktale. It's also known as "The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter"

THAT'S RIGHT. .

That's an amazing story

...YOU MEAN THAT MOON?

Eh?! Did the princess fly?!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN.

TINY AND ROUND, FAINTLY SHINING IN THE CLOUDS DURING THE NIGHT....

ITS CONTOURS ARE BLURRY AND CAN'T BE SEEN CLEARLY.

THAT MOON

DOESN'T WANE?

...DOESN'T WANE?

.....

HUH?

AND THEN YOU'LL SEE IT BECOME FATTER AGAIN...

SCRATCH

Like this. SCRATCH

UMM, THE ROUND SHAPE GRADUALLY DECREASES AND BECOMES THINNER..

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "DOESN'T WANE"?

WHAT'S THAT?

..Wane?

EH?

Huh?

...THE MOON HERE DOESN'T WANE?

"IN THE OLD DAYS"?

EH? THEN IT'S DIFFERENT NOW?

It changed?!

YES...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT IN THE OLD DAYS.

Definitely.

AH

...I'VE SEEN THAT KIND OF EXPRESSION IN THE BOOKS OF THE PAST...

"THE MOON RIGHT NOW" HAS ALWAYS BEEN ROUND.

I ALWAYS SEE TWO...

...THREE?

MOONS, THAT IS.

SOMETIMES EVEN THREE.

WHEREVER WE ARE.

Wherever we are?

I HEARD IT'S WHEN YOU WANT TO SEE ALL THE MOONS.

A LADDER TREE.

A LADDER?

HMM?

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

twish twish twish

WHOA!

RIP

CAN YOU CONTROL THE HEIGHT?

YEP, DON'T WORRY!

WOOOOW!

RIP RIP RIP!!

IT'S GOING UP!

snap

Be careful

WOW!
FLOWERS OF LIGHT!
YEAH.
THAT'S "JAE" THERE AND

IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE MOON..

ISN'T "IN THE SKY"...

BUT "FIXED WITHIN THE CLOUDS"..

Or rather it looks close

OR MORE LIKE THE MOON IS LOW..

WELL, IT IS A FOREIGN WORLD SO IT'S BOUND TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD I LIVED IN.

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OVER THERE AT THE DISTANCE... DO YOU SEE IT?

AH, IT'S TRUE!

I didn't realize since it was so small

HEY, ABOUT THAT MOON...

IS IT ROUND? CAN YOU *SEE* T, CHIGUSA?

AH,

THAT'S...

I CAN'T *SEE* IT WITHIN THE CLOUDS

EH? REALLY?

YEAH...

HMM...

IT'S LIKE MY SENSE CAN'T PENETRATE IT VERY WELL...

Or rather, it's blurry

IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE BLUE SKY,

OR THE STARRY SKY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLOUDS THOUGH

IT'S CLEARLY BEAUTIFUL.

I SEE...

That's too bad.

.....

...BUT LOOK DOWN BELOW!

THEY'RE LIKE SUBSTITUTES OF THE STARS.

SO PRETTY!

YEAH.

LET'S RECOMMEND IT TO EVERYBODY LATER.

THE STRANGE LIVING THINGS..

THE SHINING FLOWERS.

THE SHINING SAND..

THE TWO TO THREE MOONS THAT DON'T WANE...

THE QUITE PECULIAR, MYSTE-RIOUS PLANTS...

A WORLD WITHOUT OCEANS.

A WORLD WITH ITS PAST UNDER THE GROUND...

THE SOFT, SCATTERED LIGHTS...

IT'S DIFFER-ENT FROM THE CITY LIGHTS OF THE OTHER WORLD..

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THE THINGS..

BEING A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT..

EVEN THOUGH IT'S PRETTY SIMILAR TO THE OTHER WORLD,

RAKAN,

ARE YOU SCARED?

HUH?

...YOUR HEART,

IT'S BEATING REALLY FAST...

The sound's really fast

IT FEELS ALL THE MORE...

LIKE I'VE GONE SO FAR AWAY.....

HMM?

THIS FEELING

...WHAT IS THIS?

...AH, NO, I'M NOT SCARED, REALLY.

WELL, I WOULD BE SCARED IF I WAS ALONE.

.....I FEEL SO RESTLESS...

...THAT'S RIGHT, I'VE BEEN FEELING EXCITED..

EVER SINCE I CAME HERE..

..OR RATHER...

I'M FEELING REALLY EXCITED...

...IS WHAT I'M FEELING.

"I'M GLAD YOU'RE BY MY SIDE."

JUST WHAT IS THIS,

I WONDER....

WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT, I FEEL GENUINELY HAPPY.

MORE THAN WITH MY FAMILY, OR MY FRIENDS.

EVEN THOUGH IT HASN'T BEEN VERY LONG SINCE WE'VE MET...

ISN'T IT STRANGE?

I'VE BEEN WITH CHIGUSA.

I WONDER WHY...

IT'S ALL KIND OF SINKING IN RIGHT NOW.

AND "GOOD THING I MET YOU, CHIGUSA."

"...THIS IS HAPPINESS, RIGHT?"

...AH...

...I'M SO GLAD...

RAKAN...

...YOU'RE

ALIVE...

EVEN IF...

...I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES, I UNDERSTAND...

...THIS MUCH...

THANK YOU.

MEETING RAKAN

THE GREATEST HAPPINESS I'VE FELT.

IS BY FAR,

...I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

WHAT THE WHITE SERPENT-SAMA SAID IS TRUE...

THE SANOME PRINCE

IS COMING FROM AFAR..!

I CAN SEE THE GREEN INCREASE BIT BY BIT.

WHEN I LOOK AT IT DURING THE DAY,

IT'S TRUE!

..Hey.

THE LIGHTS FROM AFAR...

HAVE INCREASED..

AN AYAME THAT CAN TAKE A HUMAN FORM, HOW FRIGHTEN-ING ..!

SO THE PRINCE IS AN AYAME...

YEAH, IT MUST BE.

MUST BE *TRUE*...

THEN...

THE NEWS ABOUT THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL BEING AN AYAME...

I WONDER IF THE PRINCE'S INJURIES ARE FINE?

KINREI-SAMA HASN'T BEEN MAKING APPEARANCES EITHER.

KINREI-SAMA SAID THAT HE'S FINE THOUGH..

AND SANOME -SAMA TOO...

THEY HAVEN'T EVEN GONE OUTSIDE ONCE SINCE THAT TIME.....

SPEAKING OF WHICH,

I HEARD THEY WERE GOING TO SEE TO THE UNDERGROUND PLANTS.

BUT...

WON'T THEY GROW PLANTS OUTSIDE INSTEAD?

where it's more convenient

YEAH...

THE SERPENT THAT KINREI-SAMA ENSLAVED HASN'T SHOWN UP ALL OF A SUDDEN AS WELL..

IS IT THE GOD THAT SHINES IN THE SAND...?

...THE LIGHTS

ARE GRADUALLY INCREASING.

DURING THE DAY, WHEN THE WIND BLOWS...

...HEY.

.....

SHAA...

I WONDER WHY...

GREEN LEAVES ARE CARRIED HERE BY THE WIND THAT CAME *FROM THAT DIRECTION*

OCCASIONALLY

IF SANOME-SAMA IS IN THE CAPITAL,

THEN WHY,

ARE THEY COMING FROM THAT DIRECTION..?

RA.DOU-SAMA,

BUT

ARE WE REALLY GO NG TO DO THIS?

THAT'S THE LAST SENROH!

WE FOUND HIM!

SHIGA-TANA!

HE HASN'T EVEN DONE ANYTH.NG YET

EVEN THOUGH T'S SO-CALLED FAM..Y OF SINNERS,

IF "THAT BLOOD" RAMPAGES AGAIN, .T WILL BE TOO LATE.

WE CANNOT LET..

A CATAS-TROPHE LIKE THAT OCCUR

THE POSS BIL.TY

IS TOO HIGH

I BE.EVE MY FATHER'S STORY.

AND FATHER'S FATHER'S STORY

I TH NK THAT'S ENOUGH JUST.F CAT.ON

THE SENSEN CLAN

ALSO CALLED THE
MONSTER CLAN

SUTRA
TANA

"MONSTER
HUNT"

THE SO-CALLED FAMILY OF SINNERS

THEN, THAT ONE'S PROBABLY FROM THE SAME CLAN .....

"NAME?"

SENROH CHIGUSA!

AND WAS CRUCIFIED, RIGHT?

THE SINNER WHO ATTACKED THE PRINCE,

TOKURA WATO "*

*N. Tokura wato 刀蔵我刀 has the characters for sword 刀 in his name

.....

EH?

IN THE NEXT TOWN?

Morning dessert.

YEAH,

THOUGH EVERYONE ELSE MANAGED TO UNDERSTAND UP UNTIL NOW...

"SENROH CHIGUSA"?

Yes...

AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...

WE MET KINGEN'S GUARDS EARLIER, RIGHT?

THIS STRETCH OF LAND IS PROBABLY UNDER THEIR PROTECTION TOO.

I THINK IT'S BEST NOT TO UTTER MY NAME.

THERE'LL BE EVEN MORE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE NAME OF "SENROH CHIGUSA, THE ONE WHO ATTACKED THE PRINCE".

AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE CAPITAL,

WHO FEEL THAT THE "KINGEN CLAN IS NUMBER ONE".

THERE ARE PROBABLY MANY OTHERS LIKE THEM,

Ahhhhhh.

THAT'S TRUE.

..or rather.

EVEN IF THEY DON'T KNOW,

"GIN" ITSELF, GIVES PEOPLE A BAD IMPRESSION.

"SENROH", "SENGIN",

EVEN "GIN"? WHY?

EH?

YOU SEE, GIN'S COLOR

IS GRAYISH, RIGHT?

EH?

Yes, a little.

"'CAUSE IT'S GRAY"?

'CAUSE IT'S "GRAY".

TN "Gin", translated, means silver

BECAUSE "GIN"* IS AN "OMINOUS COLOR".

EH? "OMINOUS"? WHY?

EHHH?

WHICH MEANS, "GIN" IS ALSO THE COLOR OF DEATH.

"GIN" IS "GRAY", AND "GRAY" IS THE COLOR OF DEATH.

...AND WHEN OBJECTS ARE BURNED, THEY BECOME ASH, RIGHT?

YEAH.

THAT'S TRUE.

Yeah.

WELL, IT'S PROBABLY DUE TO PEOPLE'S IMPRESSION OF "SENGIN",

IT'S THE COLOR OF OBJECTS THAT "TURN GRAY AND END",

THAT SUCH A WAY OF THINKING ENDED UP BEING ROOTED LIKE THAT...

SO GRAY IS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH "DEATH".

"KINGEN" AND "SENGIN" SEEM LIKE OPPOSITES, DON'T THEY?

...IN THE PAST, THE "GIN" OF "SENGIN" WAS CHANGED INTO THE CHARACTER "ROH",

THE OTHER ONE HAS A GOOD MEANING, "GOD'S THREAD",

AND "SENGIN", ON THE OTHER HAND, SEEMS TO HAVE AN OPPOSITE MEANING ..

WELL, IN ANY CASE, IT'S NOT A NICE NAME.

I THINK IT WAS BECAUSE "GIN" IS OMINOUS.

THAT'S...

BUT THAT'S SUCH A FORCED INTERPRETATION!

YEAH.

They're only trying to find fault with it

IN A WORLD LIKE THIS THOUGH...

THAT SEEMS TO BE OVERLOOKED,

.....

RATHER, UMM...

WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING...

MY NAME ALSO HAS AN UNPLEASANT VIBE. .

AH!

I'VE REALLY COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT

KAZUHI AND THE OTHERS DON'T MIND IT AT ALL.

All of you--

...

AH, I SEE. YOU'RE...

WE FORGOT ABOUT IT!

THERE HASN'T BEEN A PERSON WHO REACTED TO THE NAME "NARUSHIGE".

IN THE TOWNS UP UNTIL NOW AS WELL,

YES.

"THE MALE SHIGEKA".

PLEASE DON'T SAY OUR NAMES.

..WHICH MEANS WE'RE BOTH IN THE SAME SITUATION.

WHEN WE GET CLOSER TO THE CAPITAL,

MAYBE,

Er... Sorry.

THE TWO MOST FAMOUS DISASTERS IN THE CAPITAL

I THINK THERE'LL BE PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT MY NAME.

IT'S BECAUSE WE ARE SO FAR FROM THE CAPITAL,

APPEARING TOGETHER.

SO THE RUMOR ABOUT THE "SHIGEKA MALE" HASN'T REACHED THIS PLACE...

.....

... I AM THE "ILL OMEN" TO THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT ME,

SO THE IMPRESSION OF ME IS ALSO VERY BAD...

THERE HASN'T BEEN FREQUENT CONTACT BETWEEN NEIGHBOURING TOWNS EITHER..

thu

hp!

YES...

IT'S ALL RIGHT...

I'M NOT WORRYING ABOUT IT ANYMORE...

YOU KNOW.

AFTER ALL.

.....

...DAMMIT!

BOTH OF YOU CLEARLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BAD...!

Honestly

THAT'S RIGHT,

...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, OKAY!

SQUEE-

-ze...

.....

PRESSURE.

THIS ISN'T RETURNING THE FAVOR!

hug

I'LL RETURN THE FAVOR TO YOU TOO, TOHJI.

BESIDES, THAT'S WHAT RAKAN-KUN ALWAYS TELLS US.

WELL,

IT'S BETTER NOT TO BE TOO PREJUDICED.

I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU GUYS NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THESE THINGS.

YEAH, I UNDER-STAND.

...SURE.

BOM

WOULD IT BE BETTER NOT TO SAY "NARUSHIGE" OR "CHIGUSA" TOO?

THAT'S RIGHT. .

"SHIGE" HAS ONLY BEEN USED IN "SHIGEKA".

AND I HAVEN'T HEARD OF A SURNAME THAT USES "KUSA"*.

Surprisingly

*T.N "Kusa /"gusa" means "grass"

OK?

OKAY!

AND DECIDE ON WHETHER OR NOT TO TELL THEM BASED ON THEIR ATTITUDES.

WE SHOULD PLANT A LOT OF GOOD IMPRESSIONS ABOUT YOU TWO IN PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

AND I'LL USE MY SANOME POWERS TO GAIN TREMENDOUS TRUST FROM PEOPLE.

FOR NOW, WE SHOULDN'T CALL OUT THEIR NAMES.

For starters, with a Super Boost UP Good Impressions strategy!

Like another name to call you?

THAT'S TRUE, FOR NOW...

FOR THE TIME BEING, IS IT BETTER TO TH NK OF AN ALIAS?

ALL RIGHT!

OKAY THEN, EVERYONE PREPARE TO MOVE OUT!

HMM... THEN...

HOW ABOUT "SAWA SOMETHING"...

THERE'S NO SURNAME LIKE THAT!!

THAT GUY IS A 100% PERVERT, SO BETTER NOT TO GO NEAR HIM.

FOR THE TIME BEING, I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SENGIN CLAN ALL IN ALL.

BY THE WAY,

HERE'S HAKUBI'S CONCLUSION THIS TIME..

THE GREEN IS SLOWLY SPREADING OVER HERE...

SEE!

...IT'S TRUE...

I WONDER IF THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL,

IS REALLY AN AYAME...

BUT,

SERIOUSLY...

THE SANOME PRINCE IS COMING,

TO SAVE THIS WORLD...!

THERE'S A FAINT SCAR LEFT BEHIND,

BUT IT'S OKAY...

IT CAN BE HIDDEN BY THE COLLAR.

YEAH...

NO...

...DOES IT STILL HURT?

LOOSEN

THAT'S ALL RIGHT,

LET ME

MY BROTHER

IS DOING INTERESTING THINGS ..

"A LETTER", YOU SAY?

YEAH...

CREAK...

WITH WORDS.

RETURN THE FAVOR

EXTRA CHAPTER

RIGHT NOW, THE LIGHTS.

A WOMAN I LIKED THOUGH .....

SHE WASN'T ..

AFTER ALL

I DIDN'T LIKE HER EITHER.....

SHE WAS AN "I'M THE MOST PITIFUL!" TYPE OF PERSON,

SHE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING..

..EXCEPT THROW ME AWAY..

YEAH.

.....

WHO, MOTHER?

...YEAH.

BUT THESE ARE REALLY BEAUTIFUL,

SO NEVER MIND.

NEVER MIND

THE SANOME-SAMA THAT SENT US THE LETTER ON WHITE PAPER?!

YES.

"SAWA RAKAN" .....?

THEN YOU'RE...

HE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL!

HE SAID HE'S THE SANOME PRINCE!

THEY ARE THE SANOME PRINCE'S GUARDS.

UMM... WHO ARE THE GUYS AT THE BACK?

WE'RE THE NUMBER CHILDREN FROM THE CAPITAL THAT WERE THROWN TO THE ENDS OF SASAOKA.

YOU PEOPLE ARE...

THEN,

OH MY, THEY WERE THROWN AWAY ..

POOR GUYS.

WE WERE PICKED UP BY THE SANOME PRINCE!

WE ARE,

THE SANOME PRINCE'S NOBLE ESCORTS.

WORDS

Words

Hello!
It's May already, but thank you very much for the New Year cards and birthday greetings!
And thanks to the people who always send their feedbacks as well!

This time, I drew up 2page x 2volumes (Moreover along the way → I tried inserting more one more volume ,

It s fun, since the drawing it up is nice change of pace. Well, coming up with material is really tough though ,

LOOK AT THAT PERSON. HE'S WEARING UNUSUAL GOGGLES.

It suits him.

COULD IT BE THAT THE THING HANGING ON HIS SHOULDER IS A TREE RIFLE?

SANOME-SAMA PROBABLY GREW THEM.

IS THE ONE ON THE RIGHT A TREE BOW?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ONE.

Wow!

THE PRINCE'S ESCORTS!

THEY'RE ALL SO DASHING.

IS THAT BLACK ONE A DOG...?

WHAT ARE THOSE CREATURES AT THE BACK?

SEEMS LIKE ROCKS OR STONES..

IT'S CALLED "IRIDESCENT".

I WONDER WHAT'S A BETTER WAY OF DESCRIBING IT...

IT'S SHINING ALL SORTS OF COLORS.

So pretty.

t's a color 've never seen

HOW BEAUTIFUL

THAT PERSON...

IS CARRYING A STRANGE-COLORED SWORD. .

EXCUSE ME, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HOW SHOULD I ADDRESS YOU?

AHH... I AM VERY SORRY.

BECAUSE I HAVE GIVEN EVERYTHING, INCLUDING MY NAME,

WHEN I DEVOTED MYSELF TO HIS HIGH-NESS,

HUH?

I DO NOT HAVE A NAME THAT EVERYONE CAN CALL ME.

IT IS A NAME,

THAT ONLY HE CAN USE.

I'M EMBARRASSED TO DEATH RIGHT NOW.

THEY ARE ESCORTS JUST FOR THE PRINCE!

THAT'S TRUE,

OH MY!

THE NORMAL SENSITIVITY OF A NORMAL TOWN-BRED, FORMER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

No no, we apologize as well!

.....

I APOLOGIZE.

They let them stay in an empty house.

.....
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS...

Okay

Aaaaah that was so embarrassing

It's like who the hell do I think am?!

THEN,

Then we'll do the guard shifts as usual

WE'LL BE RESTING IN THIS ROOM.

IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE BEING SERVED BY HOSTS IN A HOST CLUB.....

Hiding his 3rd eye

ANYWAY...

I GUESS IT'S LIKE "IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAY, BUT HOW YOU SAY IT."

HUH?

"WHAT ARE WE GOING TO CALL THEM"?

IT GIVES A BETTER IMPRESSION TOO.

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE DEVOTED TO THE PRINCE.

THEY'LL UNDERSTAND EVEN IF YOU GUYS DON'T GIVE YOUR NAMES.

IT'S TRUE THAT IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY,

YEAH

LIKE A NICKNAME OR SOMETHING

WE SHOULD THINK OF ANOTHER WAY TO CALL THEM

EARLIER WE SAID THAT WE WEREN'T GOING TO USE THE NAMES "CHIGUSA" AND "NARUSHIGE" RIGHT?

HI HI

FIRST, A NAME FOR NARUSHIGE-SAN

ANY IDEAS?

"MOTHER IN-LAW".

"MOTHER -IN-LAW".

"SIS".

"BIG SISTER".

"MOTHER".

AS EXPECTED. YOU CAN'T THINK UP OF SOMETHING SO SUDDENLY RIGHT

THEN HOW ABOUT FOR CHIGUSA?

PEOPLE TENTATIVELY RESTRAINING THEMSELVES FROM SAYING ANYTHING

"PERVERT".

WAIT...

NO RESTRAINT.

HEY RAKAN

ABOUT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO CALL THEM

EEH?!

WHY ARE YOU SO SURPRISED?!

CHIGUSA'S NOT A PERVERT!

HMM

Especially for names

LIES, AS EXPECTED

ARE A BIT DISGRACEFUL

A FAKE NAME.

HAVEN'T YOU THOUGHT OF GIVING THEM AN ALIAS?

Hmm..

IS THAT SO?

IF POSSIBLE.

Grandfather's Teachings

Lying will get yourself into trouble later on

LIES ARE LIES AFTER ALL.

LET'S TRY TO GET BY WITHOUT USING ANY LIES

YEAH

SO I THINK THERE'LL BE NEGATIVE EFFECTS

Or rather, you'll feel stressed--

.....

WELL...

FOR EXAMPLE

THEN, HOW ABOUT SAYING IT LIKE THIS?

....

I THINK HE JUST WANTED TO SAY "I HAVE DEVOTED MY WHOLE BODY TO THE PRINCE" THOUGH.....

isn't it fine?
Since he said it nicely

SINCE HE LOOKED SOOO HAPPY WHILE HE WAS SAYING IT...

YEAH.....

...OH YEAH!

HAAAAAAAH! MY SHOULDERS ARE STIFF!

...WHERE ARE YOUR SHOULDERS?

YOUR SHOULDERS GET SORE WHEN YOU TURN INTO A SWORD?

nanshige it's been a while

Vibe...

YEAH! VIBE-WISE, YOU KNOW!

Mwah!

Since we're only going to sleep now

YOU CAN CHANGE BACK NOW, KOH

HEY, ABOUT THAT...

I've always wanted to ask you this

HOW DO YOU TURN INTO A SWORD?

HUH?

.....

By the way, my shoulders are around this area.

Vibe-wise.

Vibe...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!!

SHED?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, KOH DOESN'T EVEN SHED (HIS SKIN) HUH?

got completely used to it and never thought to ask

KOH, HOW DO YOU TURN INTO A SWORD?

EHHH?

EVEN IF YOU ASK ME HOW....

NOW.... THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT'S RIGHT!

WHAT? THAT'S TERRIFYING!

UMM, SNAKES SLIP OFF THEIR OLD SKIN...

is what I meant.

YOU BASTARDS...

Tasted so good

WE OFTEN CAUGHT SNAKES AND ATE THEM.

THAT'S TRUE.

THE SNAKES THAT WERE IN THE DESERT SHEDDED THE R SKINS.

WHAT AN INTERESTING CHILD I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU

YES YOU ARE "NARUSHIGE", RIGHT?

MITAMA-SAMA TOLD ME HE WAS A "SWORD SNAKE"...

SEEMS LIKE IT.

BODY STRUCTURES DIFFER DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF SNAKE, HUH...

There, there

IT'S DEEP INSIDE THE BOX ON THE LEFT, OPEN IT

THEN, I SHALL GIVE YOU A "SWORD SNAKE"

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,

YOU COULDN'T TURN INTO A SWORD IN FRONT OF THE WATER SERPENT..

EH?

Is that so?

EVEN FROM AFAR?

IF IT'S JUST THE EXTERNAL LAYER, YES.

CAN KOH CUT ANYTHING?

YES, JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

YEAH...

THE ONLY THING IT CAN'T CUT IS PROBABLY A "SNAKE".

THAT'S TRUE.

"CONFIGU-RATION"?

SOME CONFIGURATION LIKE THAT.

...."SINCE IT'S A FELLOW SNAKE, I CAN'T CUT IT".

UMM, "SINCE IT'S THE SAME SPECIES"...

AH, THAT'S RIGHT, A "CHARACTERISTIC" OR "FEATURE".

OR "NATURE"..

ISN'T IT "CHARACTERISTIC"?

"RULE"?

Isn't that different?

...OR NOT. UMM.. "RULE"?

HE'S LIKE A DICTIONARY.

BUT CHIGUSA KNOWS A LOT OF THINGS!

That sounds odd as well

'CAUSE I'M A BIT IGNORANT ABOUT THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.

Sorry

YOUR WORDING'S A BIT ODD SOMETIMES.

HUH?

ON GOOD TERMS WITH HIM

THOSE GUYS SURE ARE...

AND THE MEANING OF "PERVERT" AS WELL.

COMMON SENSE ISN'T WRITTEN IN IT THOUGH.

THAT'S TRUE.

RAKAN, IS THAT..

I NEED TO,

GET USED TO IT QUICKLY.

AH...

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

YOUR SWORD?

THE ONE IN YOUR BAG.

I'VE BEEN LEARNING FROM NARUSHIGE-SAN THE WHOLE TIME,

I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAINING.

I GOT IT FROM A CELLAR ALONG THE WAY.

OHH~

CAN YOU USE IT?

EH, REALLY?

ASK US ANYTIME YOU'RE FREE, PRINCE.

Yean

THEN, SHALL WE ACCOMPANY YOU?

OKAY! THANKS EVERYONE.

We'll come with you.

Me too

AND TRAIN TOGETHER.

" YES "

"YOU ARE AN INTERESTING CHILD I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU"

.....

"I SHALL GIVE YOU"

"A SWORD SNAKE".....

"NOW THEN, FOR THE TRANSACTION"

NARU-SHIGE?

WHAT KIND...?

"TRANS-ACTION"?

HUH?

IS A NORMAL CHILD.

RAKAN-KUN..

AH, NO, NOT REALLY...

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

IT'S JUST THAT.

I WAS JUST THINKING ...

IF RAKAN-KUN WON'T HAVE TO USE THE SWORD....

THAT IT WOULD BE GREAT,

SO THAT IT WON'T EVER HAPPEN.

.....

...YES.

LET'S PROTECT HIM PROPERLY.

THAT'S TRUE.

SORRY! I ACCIDENTALLY KEPT STANDING THERE AND TALKING TO THEM.

Sorry for the wait

LET'S SLEEP!

THEN, GOOD NIGHT EVERYONE!

GOOD NIGHT!

Good night.

SEE YOU TOMORROW!

HEY, STOP STANDING THERE AND CHATTING,

WE HAVE TO SLEEP SOON!

You guys!

RIGHT.

Are you our dad?

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

LET'S SLEEP.

HMM?

WHAT'S UP?

LET'S.

LET'S GO TO SLEEP.

YES,

GOOD MORNING TO KIYOSHI, SATOSHI, ATSUSHI AND TSUYOSHI AS WELL!

Ah! Good morning Rakan~ ♡

GOOD MORNING, KURO!

Okay~!

Let's move out!

THANKS FOR KEEPING WATCH, AOTSUBAKI!

Thanks for letting us stay the night

Pardon us

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

EXCUSE US FOR DISTURBING YOU ALL!

ARE YOU CONTINUING YOUR JOURNEY TO THE CAPITAL?

YES.

.....

...SANOME PRINCE.

YES?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH,

FOR INCREASING THE GREENERY HERE!

THANK YOU AS WELL.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

AN AYAME.....?

...IS THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL,

REALLY...

...REALLY...

IS KNREI-SAMA, WHO IS GOD'S THREAD ..

PLANNING ON ENDING THIS WORLD. .?

...IS HE REALLY...

WE...

...WE JUST....

CAN'T BELIEVE IT.....

SINCE WE DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF

WELL, THAT CAN'T BE HELPED

I KNEW IT...

YEAH,

IT'S NOT REALLY A PROBLEM.

HUH?

...YES,

IF YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT,

DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

It's okay?

EH..?

YEAH!

IF YOU'LL BELIEVE IN THAT AND REST EASY,

IN ANY CASE,

WE'LL JUST BE TURNING THIS WORLD GREEN AGAIN, FOR NOW.

.....

SINCE THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

THEN I'M FINE WITH IT.

...WELL, IN THAT CASE,

O-

OKAY.

AND BE CAREFUL,

An,

looks like everything's gonna be all right

JUST IN CASE THE WIND DRAGONS COME AGAIN.

OKAY!

I LEFT SEEDS THAT I'VE TOUCHED BEHIND, SO PLANT THEM, OKAY?

TAKE CARE, EVERYONE!

See you!

H...

SANOME PRINCE...!

YES...!

fS

HH...

THAT'S....

...AGAIN?!

THE SAND!

!

WOLF.

IS IT ANOTHER PROPHECY...?!

THE ILLUSION...!

THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL!

THEY SAID THAT "THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL IS AN AYAME"...

BUT,

IS IT A PROPH-ECY?

...IT'S THE PRINCE'S ILLUSION!

OF COURSE I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

THAT "THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL IS AN AYAME"...

I WONDER IF WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THE LETTER IS TRUE.

REALLY GREW ..

BUT THE SEEDS INCLUDED IN THIS LETTER...

CHAPTER 00

I WONDER IF THE RUMOR THAT THE PRINCE WAS INJURED IS TRUE?

SEEMS LIKE IT.

IT SEEMS THAT . WHEN SOME KIND OF MONSTER APPEARED NEAR HIS HIGHNESS' BEDROOM THE OTHER DAY .

HE GOT INJURED WHILE STOPPING IT...

THEN PERHAPS HE DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WALK OUT TO THE PLAZA?

PROBABLY, THAT'S WHY WE'RE THE ONES CALLED HERE...

CREAK

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

"Worry"?

WHO KNOWS?

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

.....?

EH?

TODAY,

THE PRINCE SAYS HE HAS TWO MATTERS HE NEEDS TO INFORM EVERY-ONE ABOUT, NO MATTER WHAT.

TWO?

WE APOLOGIZE FOR MAKING YOU ALL WORRY.

...IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE.

THE GOOD NEWS.

FIRST OF ALL,

...TWO ANNOUNCE-MENTS?

THERE ARE...

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY.

ONE MORE SANOME HAS APPEARED,

EH...?

IT IS A NEW SANOME,

DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE HERE IN THE CAPITAL.

ARE "FLOWERS OF LIGHT" WHICH THAT SANOME GREW.

... THESE LIGHTS WHICH HAVE BEEN INCREASING AND HEADING TOWARDS THE PALACE,

THE LIGHTS SEEN AT NIGHT,

WHICH HAVE APPEARED AT THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY...

THAT SANOME IS CALLED "RAKAN".

BY "THAT", HE MEANT ....

EH...?

HE IS THE PRINCE'S "LITTLE BROTHER".

HE HAS THE SAME FACE AS THE PRINCE.

RAKAN-SAMA, THE YOUNGER BROTHER,

JUST LIKE HOW THIS PRINCE, THE OLDER BROTHER,

...LITTLE BROTHER?!

HAS THE POWER TO PREDICT AND THE EYES TO SEE INTO THE DISTANCE,

HAS THE POWER OF THE SANOME.

EH, A SANOME LITTLE BROTHER...?!

...THE PRINCE HAS A LITTLE BROTHER?

WHA.....?

WHAT...

KIND OF ACT IS HE PUTTING UP?!

SIMILAR TO THE PRINCE, IN ORDER TO SAVE THIS WORLD,

HE CAME FROM BEYOND,

AND IS NOW HEADING TO THE CAPITAL, SPREADING GREEN WITH HIM.....

THEN,

THE PRINCE'S YOUNGER BROTHER?!

THOSE LIGHTS ARE FLOWERS OF LIGHT?

HE HAS THE POWER OF THE SANOME..?

THE GREEN LEAVES THAT OCCASIONALLY COME FLYING FROM AFAR ARE REALLY REAL!

SANOME-SAMA IS DOING IT, EVEN FROM THAT FAR AWAY!

THAT'S RIGHT, IN THE PAST, THERE WERE A LOT OF THOSE IN THE CAPITAL!

RAKAN-SAMA..

ANOTHER SANOME-SAMA..

HAS REALLY APPEARED!!

IT'S THE SAME NAME AS THE ONE IN THIS LETTER.

...BUT THEN WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE WRITTEN HERE...

IT'S THE SAME NAME IN THE LETTER!

THE NAME RAKAN!

...THAT THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL IS AN AYAME .....?

THEN, THE ONE WHO WROTE THAT LETTER IS REALLY,

REALLY THE OTHER SANOME-SAMA!

!

WE ESPECIALLY HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL,

IS VERY BAD NEWS.

THE OTHER ONE,

WILL LISTEN CALMLY.

EH...?

SILENCE, PLEASE

RIGHT NEXT TO RAKAN-SAMA.

THE SENROH CHIGUSA IS LURKING,

SO THAT'S WHAT HE'S PLAN-NING!

!

OH NO!

SENROH CHIGUSA... .

IT'S THE "LAST SENROH".

"THE"?

.....

SENROH...

THE "FAMILY OF MONSTERS" ..

WITH THE SANOME-SAMA...?!

WHO ARE CALLED THE "FAMILY OF SINNERS"...?

CHIGUSA .....?

...THE SENROH CHIGUSA IS?!

BUT THAT MAN..

WAS CRUCIFIED AFTER TARGETING THE PRINCE!

HIS BODY WAS COVERED IN BLOOD.

I SAW IT TOO.

ARROWS WERE STICKING OUT FROM HIS BODY WHEN HE WAS CRUCIFIED!

HE DIED!

HE SHOULD BE DEAD.

BUT IF...

...THAT'S RIGHT, THE SENROH FAMILY,

IS THE FAMILY OF MONSTERS.

"A MONSTER THAT DOESN'T DIE"..... ... .

IT'S JUST AS THE LEGEND SAYS...

EVEN IF HE IS INJURED...

EVEN THOUGH YOU THINK HE'S DEAD,

HIS BODY HEALS ITSELF LITTLE BY LITTLE.

HE HAS RETURNED COMPLETELY TO HIS ORIGINAL STATE.,

AND HAS ONCE AGAIN APPEARED IN THE NORTH.

THE PRINCE USED THE POWER OF HIS EYES,

AND FOUND SENROH CHIGUSA IN THE DISTANCE.

AND FURTHERMORE, HE FOUND OUT SOMETHING ELSE.

THE SECRET OF THE BODIES OF THE "FAMILY OF MONSTERS",

THE ONE THAT HAS BEEN LONG BEEN KEPT BY THAT CLAN.

...EH?

"SENROH CHIGUSA",

"IS A MONSTER THAT HAS THE BLOOD OF AN AYAME."

...WHAT?

LIES...

AREN'T *YOU* THE ONE WHO'S AN AYAME!

EH...?

THAT'S RIGHT! SUCH...

WHAT'S WITH THAT STUPID...

CHIGUSA?

.....

AH...

"IT ABSORBS NUTR.ENTS "

" UNTIL ITS BODY GRADUALLY BECOMES MORE SOLID "

"OR MORE LIKE IT'S OOZING FROM THE SAND."

"AN AYAME'S TAIL "

" IS CONNECTED TO THE SAND, RIGHT?"

FSSHH

SHIGA-TANA,

BUT, RAIDOU-SAMA,

HE HASN'T EVEN DONE ANYTHING YET.

THIS IS THE LAST OF THE SENROHS!

I FOUND HIM! FOLLOW HIM!!

THE PROBABILITY IS TOO HIGH

THE SENROH FAMILY IS CALLED THE FAMILY OF MONSTERS

WE SHOULD GET RID OF ALL OF THEM RIGHT NOW

—IT'S ABOUT THE PROBABILITY!

——THOSE ARE...

START!

"AYAMES SHOULD ALL BE ELIMI-NATED FROM THIS WORLD!!"

THE WORDS I REMEMBERED...

WHEN I OPENED...

MY EYES...

"AYAMES SHOULD ALL BE ELIMINATED FROM THIS WORLD."

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT...

THAT THAT WAS...

MY DUTY.

.....

——THAT'S RIGHT,

I SAW HIM

SOMEWHERE

IN THE PAST...

CHIGU.....

"IT'S MADE FROM AYAME'S EYE-BALLS."

A "SANOME" IS A "SANOME".

AND AN "AYAME" IS...

T.N In the line "a Sanome is a Sanome" the characters used to spell "Sanome" are different. The first one is spelt with the characters for "sand" (沙) and "sprout" (芽) while the latter is spelt with the characters for "thin silk" (紗) and "sprout" (芽).

AN "AYAME"

WHICH IS WRITTEN AS "THE EYES OF A MONSTER".

TN: In the line "an Ayame is an Ayame", the first Ayame is spelt with the characters for "monster" 妖 and "sprout" 苗, while the second Ayame is spelt with the characters for "monster" 妖 and "eyes" 目.

SENROH CHIGUSA...

IS AN AYAME MONSTER?!

AN AYAME IN HUMAN FORM?!

SENROH CHIGUSA IS...

AN AYAME...?

.....THE SENROH FAMILY WAS ORIGINALLY "SENGIN",

"THE MONSTER THAT DOESN'T DIE".

...IN ALL LIKELIHOOD,

THEY HAD THE AYAME BLOOD...

AND THE AYAME'S MONSTROUS POWER SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING.

THEY CANNOT DIE WITHOUT GOING MAD.

FOR THAT REASON, THEY WERE CALLED...

FOR THAT REASON, IT WILL EVEN-TUALLY,

BE THE BLOOD THAT WILL MAKE THEM GO MAD.

FOR THAT REASON, THEY CANNOT DIE EASILY.

HAS LASTED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS WORLD.

THE DISASTER HELD BY THE NAME "GIN",

...THE "FAMILY OF MONSTERS",

IT HAS BEEN THE WORLD'S DISASTER EVER SINCE.

...AND THE "FAMILY OF SINNERS"

.....

.....

SENROH CHIGUSA IS GATHERING MORE COMRADES TO TARGET THE PRINCE.

AND JUST AS DISASTER ATTRACTS MORE DISASTER,

Gasp !

"SHIGEKA NARUSHIGE",

THE ONLY MALE BORN TO THE SHIGEKA CLAN.

JUST AS HOW THIS KINGEN IS...

"GOD'S THREAD"!

THEY USE THE PEOPLE'S FAITH IN THE SANOME RAKAN-SAMA,

WHO HAS THE SAME FACE AS THE PRINCE.

TOGETHER WITH THE NUMBERED CHILDREN THAT HAVE BETRAYED KINGEN'S PRO-TECTION,

!

THE *MALE* SHIGEKA?!

IT'S THE GUY THAT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BORN TO THE SHIGEKA.

LAST TIME THERE WAS A RUCKUS ABOUT HIM BEING AN "ILL OMEN" AT THE CAPITAL..

AND HAS BEEN AIMING FOR THIS CAPITAL FROM AFAR.

CHIGUSA SENROH IS HIDING HIS DISASTROUS NAME,

THE PRINCE OF THIS CAPITAL!

TO ONCE AGAIN TARGET...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HE DISAPPEARED AROUND THE SAME TIME SENROH DIED.

...NARUSHIGE OF THE SHIGEKA?

!

WASN'T HIS WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN FOR A LONG TIME NOW?

COULD IT BE THAT NARUSHIGE RESCUED SENROH?!

...LITTLE BROTHER.

THEN, THE SANOME-SAMA IN THIS LETTER,

THE THING ABOUT THE PRINCE BEING AN AYAME IS A LIE?!

IS BEING USED BY SENROH CHIGUSA?!

THAT MYSTERIOUS MONSTER,

IS MOST LIKELY ALSO CAUSED BY THE POWER OF THE AYAME SENROH HAS.

YEAH..

A LITTLE WHILE AGO,

THERE WAS A MONSTER THAT INVADED THIS CAPITAL,

AND ATTACKED NEAR THE PRINCE'S BEDROOM.

!?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

what.

THAT INCIDENT..

YEAH..

I KNEW IT, HE GOT INJURED!

THE PRINCE EVEN GOT INJURED,

WHEN HE DEFENDED US AGAINST THAT MONSTER.

THIS IS ALSO MOST LIKELY DONE BY SENROH AND HIS COMRADES...

MY SERVANT "KOKUYOU", HAS ALSO BEEN STOLEN.

!

SO THAT'S WHY..

I HAVEN'T SEEN KOKUYOU-SAMA LATELY...!

PRINCE...!

SO PUSHED HIMSELF AND PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE YOU ALL.

BUT HE WANTED TO CONVEY THESE THINGS TO ALL OF YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,

...HIS WOUNDS HAVE NOT YET HEALED,

PLEASE DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND.

....TO EVERYONE LISTENING TO THESE WORDS,

RAKAN-SAMA, WHO HAS THE SAME FACE AS THE PRINCE, IS INNOCENT.

IT IS ONLY THOSE PEOPLE AROUND HIM,

WHO ARE ALL TARGETING THE PRINCE.

WHA...

TOGETHER WITH A NUMBERED CHILD CARRYING A BOW OF A STURDY TREE.

SENROH CHIGUSA,

WEARS GOGGLES AND CARRIES A TREE RIFLE.

HE'S USUALLY STANDING BY RAKAN-SAMA'S SIDE.

SHIGEKA NARUSHIGE,

USUALLY CARRIES EITHER A IRIDESCENT SWORD OR A SNAKE.

IF YOU HAVE SEEN RAKAN-SAMA,

PLEASE RESCUE HIM,

AND BRING HIM TO THE CAPITAL.

THEY ARE USING THE POWER OF THE SANOME TO JOURNEY TO THE CAPITAL.

FURTHER-MORE, NEVER BEFORE SEEN...

MYSTERIOUS MONSTERS ARE ALL,

CAUSED BY SENROH'S POWER.

AND,

IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE A BLACK SERPENT FROM NOW ON,

CONSIDER IT SENROH CHIGUSA'S SERVANT.

THEY ARE RIDING ON THE BACKS OF FRIGHTFUL CREA-TURES MADE FROM STONE.

!

HE FIGURED THAT OUT TOO ..?

SSH...

NATURALLY, YOU CAN GO AHEAD,

.....

AND GET RID OF THE REMAINING CRIMINALS ON THE SPOT.

SILENCE II

chatter !

"THE MALE SHIGEKA"?

THAT SWORD.. "IRIDES-CENCE"...

.....

I'VE HEARD OF IT...

IS THAT HIM...?

"THE ILL OMEN"...

AN AYAME MONSTER...?!

...GOGGLES ON HIS EYES.....

"THE SENROH CHIGUSA"....?

THE MONSTER OF THE FAMILY OF SINNERS

WHO SHOULD HAVE DIED ALREADY IS...

THE ONE WHO IS AN AYAME...

WE'RE DONE FOR!!

DAMN!

FRIGHTFUL CREATURES...

IS NOT THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL,

BUT SENROH CHIGUSA...?

"NUMBERED CHILDREN" ..

MADE FROM STONE"...?

FLIP

?

fwish

fwish

fwish...

fwish...

WHOOSH

whoosh

twish

glow

WILL NOT LET THESE FLOWERS WITHER!

CHIGUSA...

!

CHIGUSA IS NOT THE ONLY ONE.

WHO SAID THAT THE PRINCE IN THE PALACE IS AN AYAME.

I DEFINITELY SAW THE PRINCE WITHERING PLANTS,

WITH MY OWN TWO EYES.

REALLY AM...

NO BUTS!

I...

BUT,

RAKAN...

I DEFINITELY WOULD NOT LIE ABOUT THAT!

AS THE SANOME PRINCE,

!

ANOTHER ILLUSION?!

THE SAND IS ONCE AGAIN...

SSHH...

.....

!

THAT'S...

AH!

WOOSH!!

HOSHIMI-NOKOTO...?!

AN ILLUSION?

A SPIRIT...?

OF THE KINGEN FAMILY...?

EH?

!?

ISN'T THAT THE HAIR AND SKIN COLOR.

THAT'S...

SIGH

?

fSSH!

...IT'S WITHERING!

THE PLACE...

WHERE KINGEN AND THE PRINCE'S ILLUSION APPEARED IS WITHERING!

SHUT

.....

HE WAS THROWN AWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD..

BUT HE'S THE ILL OMEN!

.....

WHAT'S GOING ON?

NARUSHIGE HAS COME BACK...?

SSHH

WATO-SAMA!

IN HIS ROOM.

WHERE'S YORUAKI?

.....IT WAS FILLED WITH THINGS I'VE NEVER HEARD OF...

WAIT.

.....

THAT AYAME REALLY IS USING HIM AFTER ALL...

HE SAID THAT SENROH CHIGUSA IS AN AYAME MONSTER...

THE WORDS OF HIS HIGH-NESS JUST NOW...

fSSH!

WHAT THE HELL HAP-PENED...

HERE....?

◆SILVER DIAMOND⑭／END◆

HAY FTOU

Just when I started talking more seriously, it's tough when only stupid drafts come to mind...¸ (It seems that I was so stupid that numerous 4 komas were turned down...)

I think there are a lot of people
who are enjoying the fun parts of SD,
but those parts will slowly decrease soon.
While I do apologize a little for that,
I'll continuing writing without worrying about it. Well, I am a person that loves happy endings just like everyone else,
so I'll be happy if you keep reading until the end.

Ah, about the previous volume, I'm glad there were people who were pleased to have the girls as a front cover.♥ I'm also glad you're all surprisingly pleased with Sae...
(She has a plaaaaiiiin personality, so I didn't think that anyone would be pleased with her.)
Shigeyuki doesn't seem to have a character front cover (for the comics) yet, but I hope I can draw her with some other character at least once.

See you at the next volume then!

Sugi-wolf-hito 2008. *Occasionally Snowflake.*

EXTRA CHAPTER

IMAGE.

...HUH?

...IN THE WORLD I WAS FORMERLY IN,

THE CHARACTER "GIN" IS BEING USED IN A GOOD IMAGE.

"GIN" (銀) IS A COOL CHARACTER, OKAY?

...HEY, CHIGUSA.

IN ANY CASE, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CHARACTER WITH A GOOD IMAGE, OKAY? YEAH.

AND THERE'S ALSO A REMARKABLE BUILDING CALLED "THE SILVER PAVILION" AND, UMM...

AND SILVER IS A BEAUTIFUL COLOR. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NORMALLY HAVE THAT CHARACTER IN THEIR NAME!

THERE ARE LOADS OF SILVER ACCESSORIES... COOL OBJECTS SUCH AS, UMM, NECKLACES AND RINGS,

WELL, IT'S DIFFERENT IN THIS WORLD THOUGH...

SHE WAS CALLED "CHII-CHAN" ...OR NOT.

OH YEAH, THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED "CHIGUSA" WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL AS WELL.

AND THE NAME "CHIGUSA" IS CUTE. IT HAS A NICE IMAGE.

REALLY?

YEAH.

I SEE...

That's good.

I'M SO GLAD

THAT IT HAS A GOOD IMPRES-SION IN RAKAN'S WORLD

I'M REALLY NOT WORRYING ABOUT IT AT ALL, SO IT'S FINE.

...THANKS, RAKAN.

SMILE.

A MOTHER-IN-LAW THAT PROMPTLY GOES AWAY WHEN IT'S FRIENDLY

He's such a good kid!

Shh!

.....

MAY I YOU

BY THE WAY, AFTER THAT, IT WAS

HIGHLY OBJECTED BY THE GUARDS AS WELL.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE CALLING THAT GUY?!

DASH

THAT'S ALL THE MORE SUSPI-CIOUS!!

WAIT!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE RAKAN, IMPOSSIBLE!!

RAKAN-KUN, THAT'S NOT HIS IMAGE!!

OUTBREAK OF ANOTHER PROBLEM

"CHII-CHAN" WOULD BE OKAY AS WELL. THE NAME'S MISLEADING TOO...

AH, THAT'S RIGHT, CALLING YOU

That's true.

◆EXTRA CHAPTER IMAGE: / END◇